What Is Claimed Is:

1. A method for improving visibility in a motor vehicle, an area of illumination being illuminated by at least one light source of the motor vehicle,
wherein
   - at least one infrared sensor of the motor vehicle produces a sensor signal when a person is situated in the area illuminated by the light source,
   - the light source being controlled dependent on the sensor signal.

2. The method as recited in Claim 1,
wherein the light source is a headlamp that illuminates at least in the near-infrared wavelength range, or is a laser or is at least one laser diode that emits light at least in the near-infrared wavelength range.

3. The method as recited in one of the preceding claims,
wherein in addition, at least one ultrasound sensor and/or at least one radar sensor that preferably operates in the wavelength range 24GHz and/or 77GHz, and/or at least one video sensor, produces the sensor signals.

4. The method as recited in one of the preceding claims,
wherein the light source is deactivated and/or activated dependent on the sensor signal.

5. The method as recited in one of the preceding claims,
wherein the light source is controlled dependent on the sensor signal in such a way that the spatial and/or temporal intensity of the light of the light source assumes a value that is not dangerous to persons.

6. The method as recited in one of the preceding claims,
wherein the at least one present person is warned by an acoustic and/or optical warning signal.

7. The method as recited in Claim 3,
wherein the sensor signal for controlling the light source is derived from the

signal of the infrared sensor and from the signal of the at least one additional sensor.

8. The method as recited in one of the preceding claims,
wherein the infrared sensor is constructed in such a way that its detection area completely includes the beam of the light source, and its detection range is greater than the distance from the light source that results in eye damage.

9. A device for improving visibility in a motor vehicle using at least one light source of the motor vehicle, the light source illuminating an area of illumination,
characterized by
- at least one infrared sensor of the motor vehicle, the sensor being configured in such a way that it produces a sensor signal when a person is situated in the area illuminated by the light source,
- having at least one control unit that controls the light source as a function of the sensor signal.

10. An application of the device as recited in Claim 10 in a night vision system in a motor vehicle.